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Petition

Of ye City of London to ye Ld Mayor agt
ye pſent recordr Sr Georgs Jefferyes.

My Lord,

WE the Commons of *London*, in Common-Hall Aſſembled, being deeply ſenſible, that many of the Miſchiefs and Grievances that we at preſent groan under, are occaſioned by the Miſbehaviour, and irregular Carriages of ſome of the principal Officers of this City, particularly of Sir *George Jefferies*, Knight, our preſent Recorder, who, by very confident but falſe Affirmations, hath endeavoured to miſlead the Common-Council, in Matters of higheſt Moment: And alſo, contrary to the Duty of his Place, and the greateſt Truſt repoſed in him, hath, as we have juſt reaſon to believe, frequently made other falſe Suggeſtions and Miſrepreſentations to his Majeſty, of our moſt Loyal and Dutiful Actions and Demeanours. And finding, that he hath maliciouſly contrived, to ſubvert one of the great Foundations of our Engliſh Liberties, by menacing and threatning Juries, thereby to make them bring in Verdicts, not according to their Conſcience, but his own Will and Pleaſure; and diſcharging others contrary to Law, before they had compleated all the Buſineſs for which they were ſworn: as doth notoriouſly appear, by his late and terrible Uſage of the Grand-Inqueſt of this City, at the Seſſions of Peace holden in *Guild-Hall*. And laſtly; That he doth frequently affront, and moſt ſcurrilouſly intreat Witneſſes, appearing to give their Teſtimonies in the ſeveral Judicatures, whereby they many times become affrighted and confounded: Tending to the great Oppreſſion of his Majeſty's Subjects, to the Scandal and Diſhonour of the City, and to the diſquieting of the Peace and Unity thereof; to the perverſion of Juſtice, and dangerous Prejudice of the Publick-Weal of this Kingdom. By which ill Carriages, and moſt inſolent Behaviours, he hath rendred himſelf moſt obnoxious, and inſupportably burdenſom in that Office.

We do therefore moſt humbly pray your Lordſhip, to conſider with your Worſhipful Brethren the Aldermen, of the moſt ſpeedy and effectual Way that can be taken, for the immediate removing of the ſaid Sir Geo. Jefferies, *from the Place of Recorder of this City, as a Perſon dangerous and deſtructive to the Publick Peace, Unity, and Proſperity thereof: To the end that ſome other more fit and honeſt Perſon, learned in the Laws, of known Loyalty, Modeſty, Integrity, and undoubted Zeal for the true Proteſtant Religion, may be Elected into the ſame: Which, We humbly conceive, may be the beſt and moſt expedient Means, conducing to the Remedy of theſe Miſchiefs, and Preſervation of the good Government of this renowned City.*

12. octob. 1680/